

Message Text

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TAGS: PINS, EG

SUBJECT: DAVID HURST ARTICLE - WASHINGTON POST

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN WASHINGTON POST
JULY 30 UNDER HEADLINE SADAT REPORTED TO DISMISS SECURITY
CHIEF AFTER PLOT, WITH BY-LINE DAVID HURST, MANCHESTER
GUARDIAN: BEGIN TEXT -

QUOTE: BEIRUT, JULY 29 - PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT
HAS DISMISSED HIS SECURITY CHIEF IN THE WAKE OF AN ABORTIVE
MILITARY PLOT TO OVERTHROW HIM, THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AL
SAFIR, USUALLY WELL-INFORMED ON EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS, REPORTED
TODAY.

IT WAS THE QUOTE NEGLIGENCE UNQUOTE OF ABDUL SALAM TAWFIQ,
HEAD OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE, THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HIS RE-
MOVAL, ACCORDING TO AL SAFIR. HE REPORTEDLY FAILED TO GET
WIND OF A CONSPIRACY BY SENIOR OFFICERS THAT WAS UNMASKED,
AT AN ADVANCED STAGE, BY ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE UNIT LAST
MONTH. SOME 43 SENIOR OFFICERS WERE SUMMARILY RETIRED
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UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS IN RECENT MONTHS ABOUT UNREST IN THE EGYPTIAN ARMY. THIS IS GENERALLY ATTRIBUTED

TO TWO MAIN CAUSES.

ONE IS THAT MANY OFFICERS, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MAY DISLIKE THE RUSSIANS, ARE EVEN MORE UPSET BY THE WAY SADAT APPEARS TO ANTAGONIZE THE SOVIET UNION GRATUITOUSLY - THEREBY GIVING MOSCOW A PRETEXT FOR REFUSING TO SEND EGYPT MORE WEAPONS.

THE OTHER, PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT CAUSE IS THEIR APPARENT FEELING THAT SADAT, BY HIS SUPPORT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY, IS THROWING AWAY THE FRUITS OF THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR. THE OFFICERS FEAR THAT AN ENDLESS QUOTE NO-WAR NO-PEACE UNQUOTE STALEMATE HAS BEEN RECREATED AND THAT A SERIES OF CONCILIATORY GESTURES, THE LAST OF WHICH WAS THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL, HAS MADE THE OPTION OF RENEWED WARFARE LESS CREDIBLE.

WAR MINISTER GENERAL ABDUL GHANI GAMASI SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO REASSURE MILITARY OPINION. THIS WEEKEND HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF SADAT'S DECISION TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF ARMS EGYPT IS CAPABLE OF QUOTE DEFENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1973 UNQUOTE. HE ALSO SAID THAT REOPENING THE SUEZ CANAL WAS NOT AN OBSTACLE TO CROSSING THE CANAL IN THE QUOTE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME UNQUOTE.

SUCH REASSURANCES ONLY TEND TO HEIGHTEN INTEREST IN ARMY ATTITUDES NOW AS SADAT IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE ANOTHER HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. IT WAS REPORTED THAT DURING KISSINGER'S LAST ABORTIVE NEGOTIATING EFFORT IN MARCH, ARMY COMMANDERS PLAYED A KEY PART IN THWARTING A DISENGAGEMENT WHICH, ON HIS OWN, SADAT MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN READY TO ACCEPT. THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE INSISTED ON A MEANINGFUL QUOTE LINKAGE UNQUOTE WITH ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA IN SYRIA. UNQUOTE. END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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